



# Biography

## Civil Air Patrol

Southwest Region Headquarters  
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### Colonel Joe R. Smith



Colonel Joe R. Smith is the Southwest Region Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations. Previously, he commanded Texas Wing, Civil Air Patrol, from April 2007 to April 2011. Prior to this, he had served as Oklahoma Wing Commander. His previous CAP assignments in Oklahoma included Chief of Staff (2002-2005) and Standardization and Evaluation Officer and Unit Commander of the Enid Composite Squadron (1998-2002). He joined CAP in June 1997.

He is qualified as an Incident Commander Level 2, Mission Pilot, Mission Observer, and Mission Scanner. He is a Certificated Flight Instructor and Instrument Instructor (CFII) with over 1,250 instructor hours and 3,800 total flying hours, a CAP Check Pilot, Mission Check Pilot, Instructor Pilot, Cadet Orientation Pilot, and Counter Narcotics Mission Pilot.

Col Smith's CAP awards include the Distinguished Service Award, Meritorious Service Award, Gill Robb Wilson Award, Lt Col Norman Edwards Memorial Award 2003, Oklahoma Wing Senior Member of the Year 2003, Wing Staff Member of the Year 2002, and Oklahoma Wing Unit Commander of the Year 1999. Under his command, the Enid Composite Squadron was selected as the Air Force Association Oklahoma Unit of the Year in 2000. He was a member of the Oklahoma team that won the Southwest Region Aircrew Competition in 2004.

Col Smith has completed CAP Squadron Leadership School, CAP Corporate Learning Course, USAF Squadron Officers

School, and Air Command and Staff College. In his civilian job, Col Smith works for The Boeing Company as their Site Manager at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, supporting their transition to the glass cockpit upgrade to the T-38C aircraft. Prior to this, Col Smith spent 20 years in the United States Air Force as an officer and pilot, retiring in 1996. He flew the KC-135Q aircraft supporting world-wide SR-71 reconnaissance operations, had two assignments as a T-37 instructor pilot, was a member of the HQ Air Training Command staff, Commander of a cadet squadron at the USAF Academy, Operations Officer at the USAF Survival School, and the HQ AFROTC Staff Officer in charge of all flying training and summer programs, to include the CAP AFROTC Flight Orientation Program.

Col Smith has a Master of Science degree in Systems Management from St Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas, and a Bachelor of Science degree in History from the U.S. Air Force Academy. He was born in Gainesville, Florida, and is married to the former Harriet Jean Gillespie of Albany, New York, who is also a CAP member. They live in Wichita Falls, Texas. They have one daughter, Sandra Jean Smith, also a CAP volunteer.

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